indicating that the international rise in the demand of tiger-bone products has threatened the Indian tiger population; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to save the tiger population in the country from the poachers, to check illegal trade in tiger parts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government are as under:

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the tiger reserves.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger areas.

(iv) Steps have been taken to set up a Global Tiger Forum with membership of all 13 range states. India has recently ratified the Statutes of the Global Tiger Forum.

(v) A bilateral Protocol on tiger conservation was recently signed with China, which, *inter-alia*, provides for cooperation in controlling poaching.

Rise in the atmospheric pollution in Delhi

2433. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any recent study to know the extent of rise in the atmospheric pollution in Delhi and the various forms of pollutions emitted into the atmosphere, since the beginning of 1994;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the atmospheric pollution at present, as compared to pollution at the beginning of 1994;

(c) whether Government have critically examined the deficiencies in checking the rising atmospheric popullation in the city; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to remove the deficiencies in the measures to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme caried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, the trend of ambient air quality of Delhi in terms of major air quality parameters such as levels of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) sulphur dioxide (So_2) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) is regularly monitored. Data collected from six locations across the city of Delhi has been examined up to December, 1994.

(b) The average levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in the ambient air at these six locations are within the prescribed limits, while the level of suspended particulate matter is showing an increasing trend at some locations during winter.

The average levels of air quality parameters at six locations in Delhi are shown in the Table below:—

Location	Jan 94			Dec. 94		
	SO2	NOx	SPM	SO2	NOx	SPM
Ashok Vihar (R)	23	32	351	24	34	463
Shahzadabagh (I)	24	32	466	26	44	328

Sirifort (R)	10	28	308	16	30	476
Janakpuri (R)	12	28	405	17	37	466
Nizamuddin (R)+(C)	17	38	445	13	34	472
Shahdara (I)	22	32	470	23	28	358

(R): Residential Area

(I): Industrial Area.

(R)+(C): Residential+Commercial Area.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Since vehicular pollution is the main source of atmosphere pollution in Delhi, the measures taken and proposed by Government to control this include the following:

(i) Gross and mass emission standards for all categories of vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. An intensive public awareness campaign has been launched by the Transport Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and need for taking measures for control of pollution from vehicles.

(ii) The Transport Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has started a drive for random checking of vehicles at seven major traffic intersections of Delhi, found visibly polluting. On an average, 25% of the vehicles have been found polluting. Action taken includes prosecution and cancellation of Pollution Under Control Certificates/Certificates of Fitness.

(iii) Private petrol pumps and workshops numbering 120 have been authorised by the Department of Transport, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for checking of pollution, tuning of polluting vehicles and issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificates. Approximately 12.01 lakh vehicles have availed this facility between July, 1990 and November, 1993. Of these 3.25 lakh polluting vehicles have been brought within the prescribed standards.

(iv) It has been decided to introduce unleaded petrol in Delhi from April 1, 1995, for new four-wheeler petrol-driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters.

Dwindling wild life population

2434. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the dwindling wild life population, particularly of elephants, due to unchecked, illegal poaching in the districts bordering Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) whether any study of the decreasing wildlife population in the Orissa forests has been made by Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the number of animals estimated to have been killed by the poachers during the last three years; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to protect the wildlife in these forests?